AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): A mixing device comprising:

an input device that inputs a plurality of first audio data;

a built-in hard disk device that stores a plurality of second audio data;

an external storage device that stores a plurality of third audio data;

a plurality of operating members each being disposed to be depressed and having a sensor

for detecting the depression;

an assigning device that assigns at least one from among the plurality of second audio data

stored in said built-in hard disk device and/or the plurality of third audio data stored in said external

storage device, respectively, to at least one of said plurality of operating members;

a memory;

a control device that is responsive to said assigning device assigning the third audio data,

respectively, to the at least one of said plurality of operating members, for causing said built-in hard

disk device to temporarily store the assigned second audio data and causing said memory to store

the assigned third audio data, said control device being further responsive to said assigning device

assigning the second audio data, respectively, to the at least one of said plurality of operating

members, for reading out the assigned second audio data from said built-in hard disk device and

causing said memory to temporarily store the assigned second audio data without double storing the

assigned second audio data in said built-in hard disk; and

a reproducing device that reads out and reproduces the second or third audio data from said memory when the at least one of said plurality of operating members to which the second or third audio data is assigned is detected as being depressed.

Claims 6-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): A mixing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said operating members are pads.

Claims 9-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute a method of:

using an input module to input a plurality of first audio data;

using a mixing module for the input plurality of first audio data;

causing a first storing module to store a plurality of second audio data in a built-in hard disk device;

causing a second storing module to store a plurality of third audio data in an external storage device;

using an assigning module to assign at least one from among the plurality of second audio data stored in the built-in hard disk device and/or the plurality of third audio data stored in the

external storage device, respectively, to at least one of a plurality of operating members each disposed to be depressed and having a sensor for detecting the depression;

using a controlling module to cause, in response to assigning the third audio data, respectively, to the at least one of said plurality of operating members in said assigning module, the built-in hard disk device to temporarily store the assigned second audio data and causing said memory to store the assigned third audio data, and reading out, in response to assigning the second audio data, respectively, to the at least one of said plurality of operating members in said assigning module, the assigned second audio data from the built-in hard disk device and causing the memory to temporarily store the assigned second audio data without double storing the assigned second audio data in the built-in hard disk; and

causing a reproducing module to read out and reproduce the second or third audio data from the memory when the at least one of the plurality of operating members to which the second or third audio data is assigned is detected as being depressed.

Claims 15-16 (canceled)